

FACTOR GAS LIQUIDS INC.

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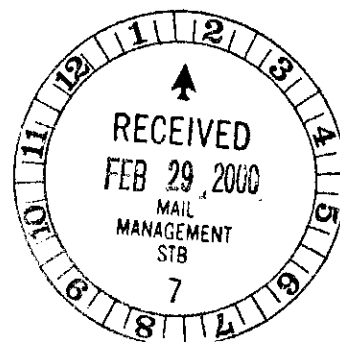
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Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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Dear Sir:

Factor Gas Liquids Inc. is an independent marketer of liquefied petroleum products that extensively uses rail service in the U.S. and Canada. The purpose of this letter is to provide comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

Factor Gas Liquids Inc. would encourage the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to use the process it has available, to look closely on whether or not the merger of BNSF and CN would benefit interested parties. We encourage the STB to put this merger through the process and not let the other railways deny access to the process by raising possible negative downstream effects that support their own self interests. The combination of BNSF-CN should be judged on the benefits that it would bring to shippers such as Factor, just the same as other railway mergers should be judged.

My company's concern is not the issue of the timing of the merger, more so, it is the net result of the merger and the possible negative consequences that the merger may create in terms of service. Other mergers such as CSXT-Conrail, NS-Conrail and the UP-SP have failed miserably in benefiting shippers and customers because they dropped the ball on providing good service during and after the mergers.

The Surface Transportation Board does have a responsibility to protect the public interest and it has an established process in place to do so. It should use that process to evaluate the merger of BNSF and CN. Factor has a vested interest in providing good service at the lowest cost to our customers. We feel the merger of BNSF and CN may help us in that goal. Please let the process that the STB has at its disposal, determine if benefits to all exist. Please do not let other self serving interests object to letting the process run it's course.

Yours truly,
Factor Gas Liquids Inc.

Barry Vosburg
Vice President, Marketing/Sales - East